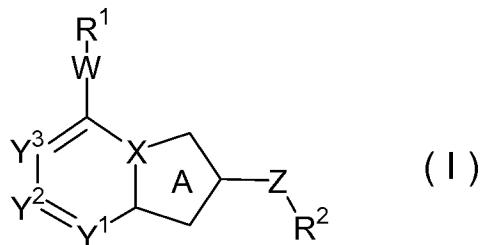
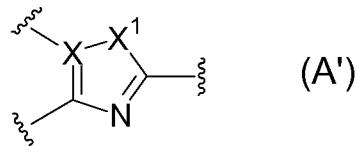


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

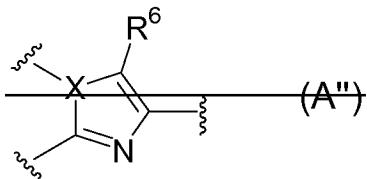
1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein, ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is ~~an oxygen, a sulfur or -NR⁵-~~ (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl ~~hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl~~), or formula (A''):



~~wherein X is a nitrogen and R⁶ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl;~~
R¹ is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted ~~hydrocarbyl group~~C₁₋₄ alkyl, ~~an optionally substituted phenyl~~ and an optionally substituted ~~heterocyclic group~~pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino, provided that the amino nitrogen of said cyclic amino has no carbonyl adjacent to the nitrogen;

R² is an optionally substituted ~~phenylalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted aryl~~ or an optionally substituted ~~pyridylheterocyclic~~;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each ~~an optionally substituted methyne optionally substituted by a halogen or a nitrogen, provided that one or less of Y¹, Y² and Y³ is nitrogen~~;

W is a bond, -(CH₂)_n- or -(CH₂)_m-CO- (wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4 and m is an integer of 0 to 4); and Z is ~~-NH~~ a bond, CO, an oxygen, a sulfur

, SO₂, SO₂, NR⁴, NR⁴alk, CONR⁴ or NR⁴CO (wherein alk is an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and R⁴ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl);

provided that (i) the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is a sulfur), W is a bond, Z is NHCO or CONH, and Y¹ is CR^{3a} (wherein R^{3a} is a hydrogen, a halogen, or an alkoxy) and (ii) the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is an oxygen, a sulfur, or NH), R¹ is an optionally substituted 1-piperazinyl, W is a bond, Z is a bond and R² is an optionally substituted aryl, are excluded; or a salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

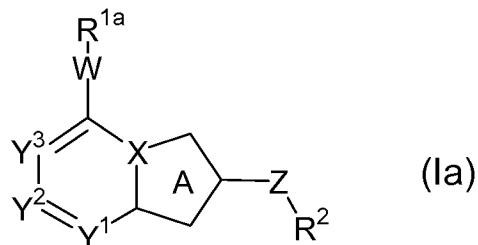
3. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is an amino substituted by two optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylalkyls groups.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is an amino substituted by an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl and an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted heterocyclic pyridyl.

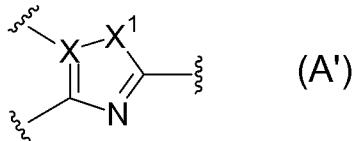
5. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is a 5- or 6-membered cyclic amino which may be substituted with one or more substituents.

6-12. (Cancelled)

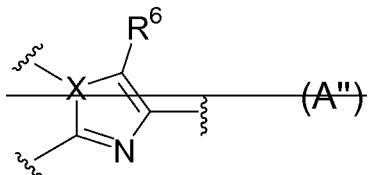
13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is an oxygen, a sulfur or -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl), or formula (A''):



wherein X is a nitrogen and R⁶ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl; R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl hydrocarbyl group and an optionally substituted pyridylheterocyclic group, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino; R² is an optionally substituted phenylalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted pyridylheterocyclic;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a an optionally substituted methyne optionally substituted by a halogen or a nitrogen, provided that one or less of Y¹, Y² and Y³ is nitrogen;

W is a bond, -(CH₂)_n or -(CH₂)_mCO, wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4 and m is an integer of 0 to 4; and

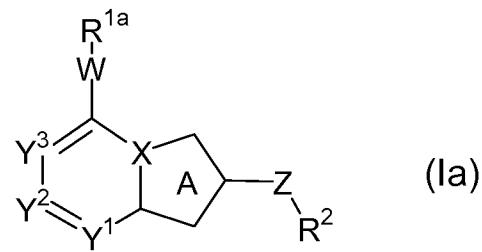
Z is a -NHbond, CO, an oxygen, a sulfur, SO, SO₂, NR⁴, NR⁴ alk, CONR⁴ or NR⁴CO (wherein alk is an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and R⁴ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl);

provided that the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is a sulfur), W is a bond, Z is NHCO or CONH, and Y¹ is CR^{3a} (wherein R^{3a} is a halogen, or an alkoxy) is excluded;

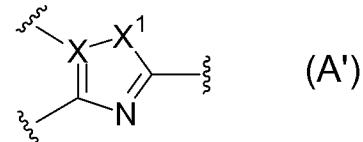
or a salt thereof.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13 wherein the disease being treated or prevented is selected from affective disorder, depression and anxiety.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Use of A method for manufacturing a medicament for treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, comprising combining a compound represented by the compound formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

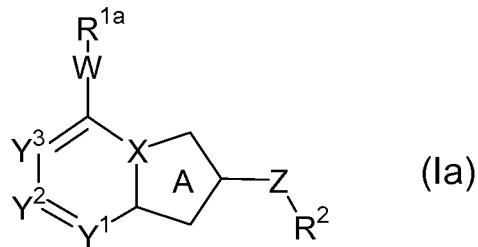
R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

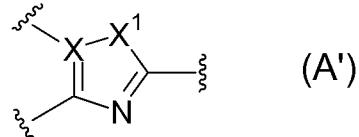
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; according to claim 13, or a salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for manufacturing a medicament for preventing or treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Use of A method for manufacturing a medicament for treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety, comprising combining a compound represented by the compound formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

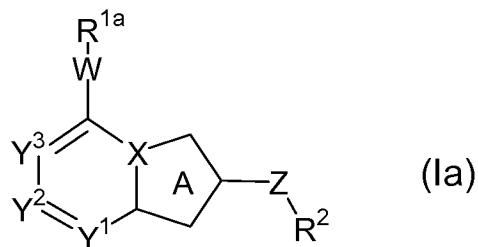
R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

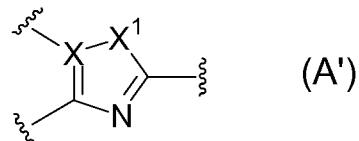
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; according to claim 13, or a salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for manufacturing a medicament for preventing or treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety.

17. (Currently Amended) An agent for preventing or treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises the compound represented by the formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

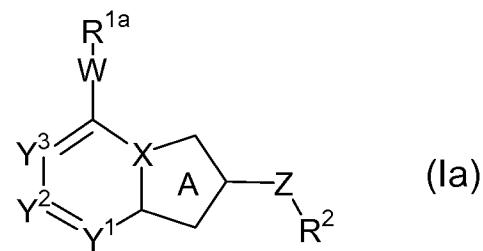
R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

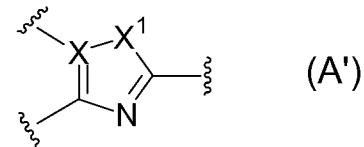
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; (Ia) according to claim 13 or a salt thereof.

18. An agent for ~~preventing or~~ treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety which comprises ~~the~~ a compound represented by the formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; (Ia) according to claim 13 or a salt thereof.